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News Release

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13 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine in Duluth

Thirteen individuals were sentenced today and yesterday in Duluth for their roles in a large operation to distribute the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine in the Duluth area during the past three years. The investigation resulted in 28 people being indicted on meth-related charges in August 2008.

Seven of those defendants were sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank:

Marques Anthony Jones, age and address unknown, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine after admitting he had distributed between 350 and 500 grams of the drug.

John Edward Schostag, 38, Duluth, was sentenced to 120 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of attempted possession with intent to distribute 232 grams of methamphetamine and one count of being a felon in possession of a SKS 7.62-millimeter rifle. Previously Schostag had been convicted of felony crimes in Ramsey County; specifically, second-degree narcotics sales in 2004 and third-degree narcotics possession in 2005. As a result of those convictions, he was prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms.

Joey James Hagadorn, 40, Superior, Wisc., was sentenced to 96 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of distribution of methamphetamine after admitting he had sold between 1,500-5,000 grams of meth.

Gail Lynn Lindrud, 54, Forbes, Minn., was sentenced to three years of probation on one count of distribution of methamphetamine after admitting she had sold 15 grams of the drug. She also was responsible for another 19 grams of meth found in her residence during the execution of a search warrant. Gail's husband, Martin John Lindrud, 54, was sentenced to 18 months in prison and three years of supervised release on the same distribution charge as his wife; and he, too,

admitted responsibility for the additional 19 grams of meth found by law enforcement in the residence he shared with his wife.

Justin Paul Linskie, 24, Duluth, was sentenced to 84 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of distribution of between 500-1,500 grams of methamphetamine.

Robert Gene Chapman, 38, Duluth, was sentenced to three years of probation on one count of conspiracy to distribute meth.

Yesterday in Duluth, Judge Frank sentenced six co-defendants for their roles in the operation after they earlier pleaded guilty to the charges:

Nichole Ann Kearney, 23, Duluth, was sentenced to 35 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute between 350 and 500 grams of meth.

John Eugene Highland, 26, Two Harbors, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute between 350 and 500 grams of the drug.

Sandra Marie Archambeau, 36, Duluth, was sentenced to 35 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute between 350 and 500 grams of the drug.

Karen Marie Tremain, 44, Duluth, was sentenced to five years of probation on one count of aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute 58.4 grams of methamphetamine.

Bobbi Sue Nesgoda, age and address unknown, was sentenced to 40 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute meth after admitting she had distributed between 200 and 350 grams of the drug.

Alanna Lynn Brown, 24, Duluth, was sentenced to five years of probation on one count of aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine after admitting she had possessed with the intent to distribute 112 grams of the drug.

The 12 other defendants subject to this indictment already have pleaded guilty and await sentencing. Three remain fugitives.

Two other defendants, indicted separately, also have been sentenced in connection with this distribution ring:

Johnny Lee Blevins, 23, St. Paul, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute in excess of 15 kilograms of methamphetamine. Blevins was sentenced on Sept. 24 by U.S. District Court Judge John Tunheim. He was indicted on Feb. 5, 2008, and pleaded guilty on May 13.

Edgar Manuel Sierra-Serrano, 29, St. Paul, was sentenced to 151 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy. He was sentenced by Judge Tunheim on Oct. 10, 2008. He also was indicted on Feb. 5, 2008.

Another defendant indicted in a separate but related case awaits sentencing. Jimmy Jo Korf, 27, St. Paul, pleaded guilty on July 8 to one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute in excess of 15 kilograms of methamphetamine. Korf was indicted on April 23. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday in St. Paul.

“This is one of the largest methamphetamine cases in the history of our region,” said Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsey. “Additionally, the criminal activity perpetrated in this case went well beyond selling meth. We know by removing these criminals from the streets we will see less crime and drugs throughout our region. We want to thank all of our partner agencies for their hard work on this case.”

This case is the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department, the ATF; the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force; the Superior, Wisc., Police Department; the Minnesota State Patrol; the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office; the Carlton County Sheriff’s Office; the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; and the U.S. Marshals Service. The case is part of an ongoing effort by local, state and federal law enforcement to stop drug trafficking in the Duluth area. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.